

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims taking into consideration the prosecution in the parent application which has been allowed and in which the issue fee was timely paid on August 30, 2000. Claim 18 has been added and is based on page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 9 of the specification.

In this regard, in accordance with MPEP §2001.06(b) no copies of the prior art in the parent applications are submitted herewith. The reference cited forms from the parent applications are submitted herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. In accordance with MPEP §609, a Form 1449 listing these references is also submitted herewith. Confirmation that the prior art cited in the parent applications has been considered in the next Official Action is most respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments to the claims an early and favorable action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: Richard E. Fichter
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF/kdd
Divisional.prelim.wpd

August 30, 2000